

# HISTORY AND POLITICS

## GUIDELINES FOR HONORS THESES (HIS/POL 498)

**Departmental Goals.** Students in the Honors and/or Teaching Fellows Programs will:

- Develop a viable topic and complete a major analytical research project in the topic area
- Demonstrate excellence and creativity in conceiving the topic, in research, in writing and in oral presentation
- Develop and demonstrate career skills of independent work, time management and initiative

**Preliminary Procedure:** The student will ordinarily take History 334 (Methods of Research) or Politics 205 (Political Ideas Seminar) before she writes her Thesis. She will also, in the semester immediately before she undertakes her Thesis, identify and work with the appropriate faculty member to finalize a viable topic. The faculty director must indicate in writing to the department head that the topic is viable before the student can go on to pre-register for HIS/POL 498 and write the Thesis. History majors should plan to enroll in History 495 (Senior Seminar, 1 credit hour) during the same semester that they write their theses, as this course works together with History 498.

**Research, Writing and Presentation:** The student will meet with her faculty director during the first week of the semester. At that time they will go over the evaluation form for Senior Research, discuss grading, establish deadlines for research, outlines, preliminary drafts and the final draft, and arrange a regular meeting time if possible. Within 20 days of the beginning of the semester, student and director must submit to the Registrar's Office a completed HIS/POL 498 Research Form. Final revisions must be made and the Thesis submitted to the faculty director no later than the first day of examination period. The student must follow Honors and and/or Teaching Fellows guidelines in formatting her Thesis and must obtain the appropriate signatures by the last day before senior grades are due. The department should receive one copy. Each student will also make a thesis presentation of roughly fifteen minutes to faculty, majors and other invited guests, usually on the afternoon of reading day. The department will supply each thesis presenter with invitations to this event. It is the responsibility of the student to stay in close touch with her project director throughout the semester and to respond appropriately to guidance. The completed project will be worth three credit hours.

**Questions:** Consult Dr. Novak (760-8398, [novakm@meredith.edu](mailto:novakm@meredith.edu)) with any questions.